Reed Family Papers,

JOAN HIGGINS REED COLLECTION

New Mexico Musuem of Art Library and Archives

Extent: 3 linear feet Dates: 1926 - 1977 Language: English

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Preliminary Comments

This collection emerged from the Victor Higgins Papers [Boxes 16-24 and OB 4] The contents of this collection and the Higgins Papers were donated to the museum by the next of kin of Joan Higgins Reed (hereafter JHR).

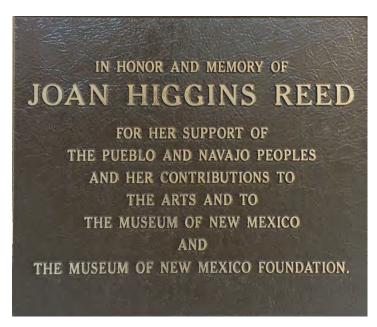
Joan Higgins Reed was the daughter of artists Victor Higgins and his first wife Sara Parsons (Mack), and the granddaughter of painter Sheldon Parsons and photographer Caroline Reed Parsons. Joan married Allan Reed (hereafter AWR). Their son, Christopher, suffered from cerebral palsy and died as a teenager.

For a more complete statement of JHR's family background, see the introduction to the Victor Higgins Papers, and the genealogical chart also found there.

Joan Higgins Reed died in an automobile accident in 1983.

The letter that passed between Joan and her mother, Sara Parsons Mack, are the central feature of ths collection Most of them dealt with Christipher's physical condition, and serve as a touching record of the grandmother's love for Kiss-Kiss, her pet name for the child.

This Collection contains material relating to Joan's activities in the main, but also concerns her husband, AWR, her son Christopher, and her parents and grandparents.



Plaque in courtyard of museum

Box Numbers

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SECTION I

PERSONAL PAPERS OF JOAN HIGGINS REED & ALLEN W. REED

Box 26

A. Writings and Documents

1. Social Security Card for Joan Sheldon Reed

Photo of JHR. Cropped, black & white. 2 x 2.

Quarterly Registration Certificates, Stanford University, for JHR:

Spring, Winter: 1938-39.

Spring, Summer,

Autumn, Winter: 1939-40.

Spring, Autumn,

Winter: 1940-41. Spring: 1941-42.

Inventory. Longhand [JHR?]. Silverware. [1954?]

Quotations and references. 2 sheets, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 6$, ink. [JHR?]

One, a definition of "democracy" from David Lilienthal at Congressional Committee Hearings, 1946, re appointment to A.E.C. One, from article on Sen. Ball of Indiana, quoting definition of a "liberal" in LIFE Magazine, 3-3-47.

Permanent Voter Registration - JHR. April 5, 1952.

With physical description of voter; showing residence to be Taos.

Report Cards= Joseph Le Conte Jr. High School, January 1936: Joan Mack

= [Same School] June 1936: Joan Mack.

Diploma, Jr. High School, June 19, 1936: Joan Orrin Mack With: Certificate of Merit. June 18, 1936: Joan Mack.

[Essays, reports, articles by JHR.]

[The following reports and papers written by JHR during and after her early school years highlight the range of her extraordinary intellect.]

2A. Book Reports. JHR

19 index cards reviews of fictions and nonfiction by title.

1 sheet, hole-punched. Trees, titles, authors.

1 sheet, hole-punched. Poetry, titles, authors.

2B. Early Man, Units I, etc. April 22, 1926. By Joan Mack at Joseph La Conte Jr. High School, History Class B9, at the age of 14 years.

A study, exquisitely hand-illustrated, of early man. The illustrations are in pencil, and depict archetypical ethnic faces and ancient pottery, and maps in color which trace with impeccable detail the progress of the Roman Empire. The last page is a so-called "Time Line on English History" from the reign of Alfred the Great to that of Queen Victoria. [The daughter of Sara Parsons Mack and VH, who were divorced in 1924 two years after the birth of JHR, Joan signed the foregoing article "Joan Mack" since her mother had by then assumed the name Robert S. Mack, her second husband.]

3. Woodrow Wilson. By Joan Mack. June 1936. 45 pp.

An error-free typescript done at age 14 years, traces the life of the president. With hand-drawn illustrations and pictures cut from publications, various typewritten Appendices, and an extensive Bibliography.

Attached to this essay is a note written by her teacher, a Mr. Miller, who awarded an A+ to the work, writing inter alia:

"The paper is the best I have ever seen produced by a high school student ***
[and] would surpass the work of some University students."

4. Concept Paper. By JHR. August 1, 1972. Typewritten carbon copy. 7 pp.

A study of the interplay of learning and teaching. Figures (i.e. drawings) referred to are missing. But pencil worksheets [Pg. 1 is missing] accompanying this typescript seem to have drafts of these figures.

- **5.** *The Prayer of Faith.* By JHR. 1 pg., n.d. Poem, pencilled; 12 lines, 3 verses. A paean to God.
- **6.** Essay. Report on The Quest for Certainty by John Dewey. Written by John Sheldon Higgins.

For Logic 1b at Stanford University Paper received an "A" from Dr. Reid.

[Essays, articles, manuals collected by JHR.]

7. The Nurse's Role in the Alcoholic's Rehabilitation. By Alyce Cress, R.N., B.S. Typewritten, 10 pp. With bibliography.

Papers presented at Monterey Peninsula Committee on Alcoholism Institute, Monterey, CA. June 22, 1956.

8. *U.S. Indian Administration As A Laboratory of Ethnic Relations.* By John Collier. Sept. 1945. 303 pgs.

Reprint from *Social Research*, Vol. 12, No. 3. Author was Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1933-35.

9. Booklet. Inauguration of John Philip Wernette as Eighth President of University of New Mexico. May 10, 1946. 58 pgs.

Inaugural address and others; program.

- **10.** *Manual for County Clerks, New Mexico*. Typewritten, 11 pgs. November 1958.
- 11. Manual for County Treasurers, New Mexico. Typewritten, 23 pgs. January 1, 1960.
- During the period March July 1955, JHR was visiting Sara and Robert Mack in their home at Falls Church, Virginia. A series of letters written by AWR to his wife [JHR] was kept by her. In them, he called her "Jones" and signed off as "Alley". They are listed below by dates:

03-28. 04-04. 04-05. 04-11. 04-25. 05-06. Written at 5:45 a.m. 05-15. 06-06. 06-28. [?] 07-11. Awaiting her return. N.d. Amusing comments.

13. Correspondence. P.H. (Pete) Mack with JHR and AWR.

06-1[?]-50: Announces he's working at Pentagon. Mentions wife Kathy.
11-26-51: Announces that Grandmother Mack suffered a stroke.
02-05-54: TWX.
01-22-55: Heard from Sara Parsons, who is worried that Christopher was not walking yet.
12-17-62: From Peg on behalf of Pete. Christmas Cards (2).

14. Miscellaneous correspondence, 1940-1960, to Reeds.

09-08-40: Sheldon Parsons [grandfather] to JHR. Natalie - to JHR. 04-20-47: 06-01-50: Louise Metcalf to Reeds. 06-02-50: W.H. Dempsey to AWR. Curriers to Reeds. Postcard with photo of Main Street, 06-06-50: Moorefield, West Virginia. Dorothy to JHR. 06-07-50: Curriers to Reeds. 06-30-50: 07-10-50: Louise Metcalf to Reeds. 07-12-50: Dorothy to JHR. Marion to Reeds. 07-18-50: 07-27-50: Robert S. Mack, Major, to Reeds. From Rapid City AFB, Weaver, SD 09-15-50: Louise [Metcalf] to Reeds. Dorothy - to JHR 10-03-53: Robert S. Mack, Major, to Reeds. From Alexandria, VA. 01-28-51: Louise Metcalf to Reeds. 04-09-51: Kimbell Grocery Co. to AWR. Expresses disappointment with 02-07-55: AWR's volume in assigned territory.

O2-27-55: AWR to Kimbell Grocery Co. Sets forth reasons for limited volume.
O8-13-56: VH to JHR. Concerned over Christy.
11-14-58: Mrs. Harry H. Fox, Shelbyville, to JHR.
11-16-60: JHR to National Congress of American Indians. Enclosing material on New Mexico Election Code.

15. Correspondence. Dorothy - to JHR and AWR.

The correspondence in this folder was all written to JHR and AWR by Dorothy -, from California homes. She apparently is related to JHR; perhaps her sister. The records do not disclose her surname or relationship. All the letters are filled with newsy and family gossip, and all make interesting reading. They are listed below in chronological order.

05-16-50:		Wedding Anniversary poem.
07-21-50:	Postcard.	Describes mother's poor health.
11-14-50.		
01-03-51.		
01-30-51.		
03-15-51.		
01-12-53.		01-30-55.
07-28-53.		02-16-55.
09-09-54.		05-06-55.
09-13-54.		05-17-55.
10-31-54.		08-23-55.
11-16-54.		09-23-55.
12-15-54.		11-25-55.
04-20-56.		05-20-60: attaching letter from Marie.
07-10-56.		06-14-60.
01-06-58.		12-04-60.
02-11-59.		
05-20-59.		
09-06-59.		

16. Correspondence. Conchita family: Joe, Katherine["Kathy"], and others to JHR.

11-17-54: From Lorencita. 03-31-55: From Joe [American Red Cross, Taos Ch.]. From Lorencita [Taos Pueblo]. 04-01-55: From Concha family. Easter Card. 04-07-55: From Joe. 04-09-55: 04-14-55: From Katherine. 04-18-55: From Lorencita; Taos Pueblo. 05-06-55: From Joe. 05-07-55: From Joe. 05-21-55: From Joe. 06-26-55: From Joe. 03-21-56: From Katherine; U.S. Indian School. From Kathy. Valentine. Date unclear: From Joe. N. d.:

B. Organization Matters

JHR was active in a variety of civic affairs, and an inveterate "collector" of odd-lot materials. Some of those records are to be found in this section.

* * *

17. Taos County Chamber of Commerce Bulletins.

June 1959. Vol. I, No. 6.

This and subsequent issues are addressed to JHR in Taos, where she lived at the time.

July 1959. Vol. I, No. 7.

Reports on heavy tourist traffic. Contains statistics on countries of origin of tourists polled.

July 18, 1959. Vol. I, No.7a.

Summarizes talk given by Paul R. Franke, professional planning engineer, and problems of city planning.

September 1959. Vol. I, No.9. 2cc.

Relates problems during tourist season.

October 1959. Vol. I, No. 10. 2cc.

Announces, End of Summers. Schematic on proposed route of Highway 64, from Raliegh, NC to San Francisco through Farmington, New Mexico.

April 1960. Vol. II, No. 4.

This and that in and around Taos.

June 1960. Vol. II, No. 6.

Relates a Good Samaritan experience of a visitor to Albuquerque.

August 1960. Vol. II, No. 8.

Relates Jamboree of Boy Scouts to and in Taos.

October 1960. Vol. II, No. 9.

Lists reinstated members and new members. Announces that mile-long runway at Seco Airport has been graded.

November 1960. Vol. II, No. 10.

Announces matters of local interest.

18. Urban Planning. Governor's Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico. September 3 and 4, 1959.

Bound brochure, typewritten, photocopy. 195 pgs. and appendix setting forth Constitution and By-Laws of New Mexico Federation of Planning and Zoning Commissions. 8 pgs.; 12 articles on related topics. Sent to JHR, Secretary of Taos Planning Committee, by State Planning Office in State Capitol, Santa Fe.

Also: Article, *Is Urban Development Community Development*? By Mary P. Wheeler, Public Health Educator, Cleveland, Ohio. 1963.

19. Girl Scouts of Sangre de Cristo, Santa Fe, Troop 58.

Miscellaneous correspondence from Scout Council. circa 1960. JHR, Scout Leader.

20. 11-14-60: Letter. JHR to 9 Election Officials.

Sent by JHR, Election Judge, Taos, thanking them for 25 hours around-the-clock service on November 8.

21. Maps. Historical Places (Mapa Historica) of Taos. 2cc. By Arthur J.E. Merrill; n.d.

Done under auspices of Kiwanis International. Hand-drawn, artist's renderings of various sites. Key identifying sites. Each of two copies with different sites. Explanatory historical details on reverse side of each map; printed information.

C. Records of Allen W. Reed

22. Iowa City High School. June 4, 1936.
Certificate of Graduation.
In red suede booklet.

23. Unassorted material from AWR files.

Includes a small brown address book. Pg. 1 Mr. & Mrs. Allan Reed 1245-A So. Maryland Glendale 5, Cal.

Ci3 - 6088

VH name on "H" pg. But no address or telephone number.

SECTION II

BANK RECORDS, TAX RECORDS, and INSURANCE

Box 27

A. Bank Records -Joan Higgins Reed-

1. JHR Account. Falls Church Bank, Falls Church, VA.

JHR address: 603 Lanton Lane. [Should read "Langten Lane."]

Statements with canceled checks for

December, 1957 - February, 1958.

January - March, 1958.

2. JHR Account. The First National Bank of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

JHR address: P.O. Box 1361, Taos, New Mexico.

Statements with canceled checks for

January, 1964.

March, 1964.

3. Check registers. JHR Accounts[?].

First State Bank of Taos [?]. August, 1949.

October 18, 1957 - January 23, 1958. February 4, 1963 - March 25, 1964. December 16, 1957 - February 6, 1958.

[Unident] Bank.

B. Insurance Matters -Allen W. & Joan H. Reed-

4. Homeowners Policy. Joan Higgins Reed. \$12,000.

Liberty Mutual. 1963. Pol. No. H2 2291-68105.

Morada Road, Taos, New Mexico. 3 years.

Ditto. Joan Higgins Reed. \$25,000. Liberty Mutual. 1973. Pol. No. H42 261 677667-013P.

Chinle Boarding School, Chinle, AZ. 1 year.

5. Fire Insurance. Joan Higgins Reed. \$8,500. Liberty Mutual. 1959. Pol. No. FN2091 16487.

Morada Road, Taos, New Mexico. 3 years. Household goods. Ditto. \$11,500. Pol. No. FN 49P 11162. 1959.

Morada Road, Taos, New Mexico. 3 years. Dwelling.

6. Family Automobile. Allen W. & Joan Reed. AH5091-903332-27.

1957-1958. Liberty Mutual. Ford Sedan, 1957. Dodge ½ ton pick-up, 1956.

1958-1959. Liberty Mutual. Ford sedan, 1957

1958-1959. Liberty Mutual. Ford sedan, 1957. Dodge ½ ton pick-up, 1956

Change Endorsements.

- **7.** Premium notices. Liberty Mutual. Various policies. 1957-1964.
- **8.** Correspondence. Liberty Mutual. 1957-1963.
- 9. Medical Insurance. Allen W. Reed. Business Men's Assurance. 1958-1963 Health insurance premium notices.

10. Personal Articles Floater. Joan Higgins Reed. \$98,500.

The St. Paul Companies. 1975-1977.

Paintings by VH Listed by titles with values.

10 oils and watercolors.

11. Personal Articles Floater. Joan Higgins Reed. \$29,250.

American Central Insurance Co. 1957-1958.

41 paintings by title with values. [Artist not specified. VH?]

C. Tax Records

12. Forms W-2, I.R.S. Allen Reed.

1951: Van S. Hinds & R. Howard Brandenberg. \$4,065.

1953: Gross, Kelly & Co. Inc. \$1,012.

1953: Van S. Hinds & R. Howard Brandenberg. \$2,114.

13. 1972. Tax information. JRH, Chinle, AZ.

Gross salary. \$13,923.

Sale VH paintings. \$18,916.

14. 1973. Ditto. I.R.S. Return. JHR

Gross income \$61,400.

15. 1974. Form 1040. JHR.

Gross income. \$34,388.

W-2 attached; also copies of gift agreements between JHR and Museum of New Mexico; acknowledgment letter of George H. Ewing, Director, c. 7-11-74; appraisals by McAdoo Galleries Inc., Gallery West, Inc., Gerald P. Peters, and Wilson Galleries.

16. 1971-1974. Tax information, tabulations. JHR.

SECTION III

THE STORY OF CHRISTOPHER REED

Prologue

Christopher Reed was probably born in January, 1953, although documentary records to confirm the exact date are not found in the Collection. (See however, letters dated February 11, 1953 in folder 1 for first reference to Christopher.) The letters, in this Collection described below suggest that neither his parents, Joan and Allen Reed, nor his grandparents on Joan's side Sara Parsons Mack and Victor Higgins, had any early awareness that Christopher was braindamaged at birth. It took some years for them to learn - or to accept - that the boy suffered from cerebral palsy.

The letters written to Joan by her mother on almost a daily basis - sometimes two and three were sent on the same day - track the slow comprehension that Christopher was not merely "slow" in developing physical aptitudes: he was unable to do so.

Joan's "Mummy," was evidently a most adoring mother and grandmother. (She signed herself as "Mummy" all through the years of her letters to her daughter.) She usually addressed her daughter in her letters to her as "Joan Lamb," and, when mentioning Christopher, called him "Christy," or "Kiss," or "Kiss-Koss."

Her letters, written from her home in Falls Church, Virginia, contain frequent allusions to astrological charts and manifestations forecasting events and changes that might affect Christopher and his mother. She was also a firm believer in Christian Science and its healing powers. Still in all, she embraced traditional medicine and other recommended medical measures for her grandson.

Sara Parsons Mack's father, Sheldon Parsons, was a renowned artist, and she followed in his footsteps, becoming a prominent portrait painter. Victor Higgins was her first husband (she married him in 1919 at the age of 19 years - he was then 35). They were divorced in 1924. She married Robert S. Mack some years later. Joan was her only child.

Her letters in this Collection were donated by the estate of her daughter, who evidently preserved every missive her "Mummy" wrote to her. They have been arranged in chronological order. The contents of those deemed to be of special interest are summarized. But the date of each and every letter is listed. To avoid unnecessary redundancy, the sender (almost always Sara) and the recipients (almost always Joan or Joan and Allen) are not set forth. Where the parties differ, however, they are identified.

A. Letters of Sara Parsons Mack

1. 1943

December 6. From Robert S. Mack, 1st Lt., AAF in Europe, stepfather of JHR and husband of Sara Parsons Mack, JHR's mother by her first husband, VH. Written by V-mail to JHR. Expresses his love.

[No other letters found until 1950. Then Sara Parsons Mack letters begin.]

1950.

May 29. From Council Bluffs, Iowa. Mentions "Daddy's [stepfather]" problems with his command status at his military station.

July 8. From Rapid City AFB, Weaver, SD. "Daddy" in Washington, DC fighting over his command.

July 17.

August 23. Lists items being sent to JHR. Encloses shipping documents.

September 15. A note on postcard [enclosed] depicting S.W. Saint [Lady of Guadalupe?].

1951.

January 7. Typewritten. Waiting for birth of first child [Christopher]. Envelope discloses that Robert elevated to rank of Major.

December 5. [No mention of Christy: unique.]

1952.

November 16. Awaiting arrival of grandchild in January 1953. [Did previous pregnancy miscarry?]

1953.

February 26. Addressed to "Mother and Daddy of Chris!"

July 18. Dad in Doctors Hospital, Washington, DC. Kisses to Chris

2. 1954.

January 11. First mention of Christy's impaired hearing.

June 16.

July 14.

August 6. Announces death of Grandmother Mack.

October 22. From Bolling AFB Hospital.
Recuperating for two weeks from pneumonia.
Mother M died in August.

November 16. 15 pp. Worried about Chris not walking or talking. [Beginning to sense he is seriously impaired.]

November 18.

December 14.

December 27. Typewritten.

3. 1955.

January 15. Describes clothing she's sending to Christy.

February 10. Attached is letter dated February 4, typewritten, not yet mailed. Earlier letter described decorating make-ready for JHR visit.

February 21. Typewritten. Anticipating visit: has borrowed crib for Christy, and has contacted a clinical psychologist to study Christy.

February 22.

August 3.*

August 10. Beginning tests at Walter Reed.

August 12.

August 16. Discusses mental retardation [of Christy] due to allergy.

August 21. Announces beginning work on portrait of Lorna Williamson;

finished one of JHR's dad; working on one of JHR. [Birds's

feathers - shades of blue - attached.]

August 31. Still working on Lorna's painting.

*No explanation for hiatus.

September 6.

September 13. Encloses pictures of ladies' two-piece suits.

September 16. Typewritten. Discusses Christy's slow development.

September 16.

September 21.

September 23.

September 27.

4. October 4

October 11.

October 11. [Ginga - her bird - had flown out and hadn't returned.]

"GINGA IS HOME AGAIN!"

c.October 15. Refers to her "new vocation": portrait painting as therapeutic. Encloses ad in paper for return of "our dear pet", parakeet. Lost.

October 17.

October 24.

November 1.

November 3.

November 3.

November 7.

November 7. List of painting priorities for her work: calls it a "grub list."

November 10. [Rare salutation: "Joan."] Discusses evident autistic syndrome of Christy, as P.S. to earlier letter, same date.

November 10. Deep discussion of Christy's condition.

November 15.

November 16.

November 21. A Thanksgiving card to "Kiss-Koos."

November 29.

December 7. 19 pgs., two sides. Discusses homespun trivia.

December 12. Philosophical ramblings.

December 19.

Night Before Christmas. Family trivia

5. 1956.

January 12.

January 14. Suggests procedure to encourage Kiss-Koos to walk.

January 19. Faces opportunity to do portraits of a "batch" of company presidents from photos at \$100. each. [Name of company not disclosed.]

January 21. Describes her technique for portrait of first president - how to start with sketch. Acknowledges she is "now" in her fifties.

February 6. Encloses black and white photo of painting [unfinished] of first company president.

February 13. Valentine cards (2).

February 16.

February 24. [Kiss evidently at his grandmother's.] Describes his activities.

	February 29.	Encloses print of "final" painting - first presidential portrait in series. [Much changed from previous version.] Describes it as
	February 29.	"brick president, i.e. Brick Institute. Enclose black and white print of "Bruce" [?] in elaborate frame.
6.	c.March 5. March 7.	Complains that she is too "tight" in her "paint handling." Faces a "compulsion" to paint abstractions. "Daddy" [Sheldon Parsons?] announced that Air Force claim
	March 13.	had been settled with medical retirement payment of \$265. per month, tax-free.
	March 13.	Talks about clothes. Ends letter with a lipstick imprinted kiss for Kiss.
	March 13. March 19?. March 20. March 23. March 24.	
	March 27. March 29.	"Daddy is really in lousy condition - too much fatigue, etc."
	April 2. April 6. April 7. April 14. April 15.	All about clothes. Encloses fabric samples of blouses and shirts. Thrilled to hear "my boy's laugh. I do feel that he recognized me." [A pitiful description of their putting their pet to sleep in Sara's
	April 23.	arms.] At work on the portraits of the presidents Encloses black and white Polaroid of painting, 30 x 36 - "truly a 'board room portrait." Speeding up her work: from six weeks down to six days.
	April 27.	Encloses picture without any comments. [Allen?]
Box 28		
7.	May 2. May 7.	More remarks about Christy's "lack of balance" in walking. Comments on JHR's word that Kiss "stopped breathing" during a convulsive episode. Says that her portrait commission dropped down to one third.
	May 11.	
	May 15.	25 pp.
	May 17.	Wishes JHG Happy Birthday. [Letter, n.d., enclosed with present.]
	May 24.	Encloses article, typewritten entitled, " <u>Burman</u> , <u>Food and</u>
	May 28.	<u>Character</u> - 1932," as a suggested "cure" for Christopher. Another suggested approach to Christy's "cure." [Envelope refers to earlier May 28th letter not found.]

8.	June 1. June 4.	
	June 5. June 11.	Saddened upon learning that Kiss "passed out" again. More information and advice for Christy's "cure," including article, <i>The Retarded Child</i> , by Emmett Holt, Jr., M.D., <i>Good Housekeeping</i> , pp. 158, 160, Oct. 1955.
	June 12. June 19. June 22. June 25. June 25. June 26. June 28. June 29.	22 pp.
	July 2. July 6. July 6. July 13.	Typewritten. Postcard, Grand Canyon. From M.M.
	July 17. July 18.	Enclosing article, <i>Using Unsaturated Fatty Acids for Health</i> , from <i>Prevention</i> , pp. 47-54. July, 1956.
	July 20. July 30.	Refers to Kiss speaking words; undergoing tests.
9.	August 14. August 21. August 23. August 27.	August 6. Learns Kiss is deaf and sight impaired. Her painting going poorly. Delivered third "brick" portrait. Enclosed a photo of it. [Missing.]
	September 4. September 10	Two more "brick" photos came in. Bored painting lapels and white handkerchiefs.
	•	 Working on painting of JHR and Kiss; hopes it will be her masterpiece. Encloses photo of the painting in process; black and white,
	October 2. October	Encloses another photo of (advanced) painting of JHR and Kiss. 25 pp.

December 30. [No earlier letters found.] Birthday card to Allen.

10. 1957

January 13.

January 18. Reverse side of envelope contains JHR notations

February 9. Pg. 1 reference to VH:

"Where on earth did you get together so many VH paintings and frames? ***Victor always painted so slowly and what seemed so few pictures - and yet look how many he managed in his painting life! *** I seem to paint awfully slowly too."

February 13.

February 15. References to "Christy":

"There is so much about his physic sensitivity - and about the ability to be aided by it ***.

"Mary [Robert's mother] in response to my telling her about Kiss' convulsions still going on, [suggested] 'they should get a Christian Science practioner."

c.February 15. Refers to Judy Whitlock's as one of the "big" portraits that she were "in the offings." Describes it as her first "Society' portrait." Mentions VH as "Daddy."

February 23.

February 27. Discusses food [health] cures for Christy.

11. March 6. Notes of JHR on both sides of envelope.

March 8. Religious observations and advice to JHR.

March 11.

March 13. Typewritten. Information re Christopher concerning National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD.

March 14. Expresses concern over sending Christopher to above Institute. Personal advice to JHR.

March 18. Optimistic remarks about Kiss-Koos. Encloses three snapshots of her unfinished work on *Ten People Waiting*. 3½ square.

March 19.

March 19.

c.March 22. 24 pgs. Front and back of each sheet. First p. missing [pgs 1-2].

c.March 22. Sheet of new stationery: "Sara Mack, etc." Encloses Kodacolors (3) of her and Robert, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$. One in front of painting.

March 26. Enclosing *Steps In The Healing Prayers*, or *Speaking The Word*. Letter in pencil. Note attached.

March 26. "Long note #2!"

March 28.

March 31. 12. Refers to John Higgins purchase of two small VH April 5. paintings for \$1,000. April 8. April 11. April 11. April 12. Refers to Chris' hospitalization. Wonders whether operation will end Kiss' seizures. April 14. c.April 17. N.d. Saturday before Easter. N.d. April 23. Refers to her self-portrait, one of several paintings she has been May 6. working on. May 9. [JHR has the measles.] May 12. 12 pp. On Mother's Day. Note on back of envelope. JHR to Joe. May 14. Acknowledges gift of book: Etruscan Painting. C.May 16. May 24. May 29. Suggests hearing tests for Chris. 13. June 12. June 14. June 18. June 18. June 24. Religious musings. June 24. June 27 June 27. First mention of plan to visit JHR. July 3. Plan to visit Taos disrupted by commission to do two full length portraits [for Whitlocks]. Will reschedule. Discusses dress she found. Fabric and sketches of some July 5. enclosed. Discusses trip to Taos. Vague. July 10. July 14. Same. July 15. "See you guys Thursday!" [After Taos trip.] Asks for drawing of Kiss' hand and palm for August 15. readings. Describes significances of lines. [After Sara's surgical procedure.] Mailed in Arlington, VA. August 20. August 24. Awaiting test results re "big C."

14. September 3. Typewritten. Discloses that JHR is considering Health Officer Job.

September 4. Philosophical musing.

September 6. Typewritten. Philosophical advise, and categorical advice to JHR how to control her life. [Full of wise comments.]

September 10.

September 12. Typewritten. Suggests that Christy should be sent east for clinical studies. Discloses that he was never definitively diagnosed to be suffering from C.P. (implying other brain damage at birth). Expresses concern over JHR's mental health. Mild cuss words are beginning to creep into her letters.

September 19.

September 30.

October 7. Discusses arrangements for an appointment with an osteopath for Kiss: Dr. Waters.

October 11. Same. October 12. Same.

October 15.

December 15. Typewritten. Excited at the Reeds' expectation of a baby in January.

Written in Alexandria, VA. [No later indication of live birth.]

Box 29

- Birthday and Valentine Cards. Between Christopher and Mommy, and between Mummy and Christopher (7).
- The following letters describe the experiences of Robert and Sara Mack, and Dr. George Mack ["Daddy M."], Robert's father, on their trip to Teheran, Iran via Rome. They were installed at the U.S. Army Air Force base there, where Robert, an Army Officer, was sent to work. While there, George Mack became seriously ill and was hospitalized. The latter letters describe that experience. Otherwise the letters are devoted to experiences of Sara and her officer husband (JHR's stepfather) abroad.

* * *

April 8. From Falls Church, VA, their home.

April 18. From California airport en route to Rome.

April 19. TWX from Koebenhaven, Denmark, upon arrival.

**April 20. From Rome. On picture postcard with photo of Testa Barbarta e Coironata.

April 24. From Rome.

April 27. From Tehran, Iran, destination.

17.

	May 1. May 2. May 3. May 5. May 7. May 10. May 20.	This an subsequent letters from Tehran. In new house.
	May 28. May 31.	Notes that JHR visited Chimayó Santuario with Kiss for healing.
	June 8. June 11.	Purchased a pair of color-bird canaries. Attaching Administrative Rules [U.S. Air Force] on incoming APO packages.
	June 24.	Encloses copies of medical bills and checks of JHR for Kiss' treatments in June. [No explanation why sent to mother, except possibility of reimbursement.]
	July 14. July 18. July 23. July 28.	[Return of illness of Dad M.]
1959.		
	May 13?	To Joan and "my Koos." From Tehran. Envelope stamped Dr. George Mack, but overwritten Mrs. Robert S. Mack. Same on letters that follow.
	May 18.	To "Lamb."
	June 3.	Enclosing article from <i>The Tehran Journal</i> in English, June 1959, reporting visit of Belgian King Bandoin, with picture, climbing into Taos "condo" in pueblo.
	June 8. June 12.	Reports that cultural language is Spanish [!], but general language
	June 13.	is Guarani (Indian). Pencil note on envelope [JHR]: "Peggy Brown. CMI. Catholic Maternity Center."
	June 22. June 26?	,
	July 8. July 17.	Notes that Koos is wearing leg braces. Enclosing check for \$35; not cashed.

July 20.

July 23. Daddy [Robert S. Mack] ordered transferred to Paraguay.

August 4. On verge of move.

August 13. From Amsterdam, Nederland, on letterhead of Doelen Hotel with pictures. Announces they are leaving for Washington on August 16; will stay 5 days.

August 26. Sent JHR jewelry from Washington. Includes Paraguay address via Washington, D.C.

August 31. En Route to Paraguay by ship. [Barbados stamps.] Encloses ship newspaper with article on Barbados, a port a call.

September 6. On broad S.S. Brasil.

September 15. From Buenos Aires; voyage ended. Art Plaza Hotel.

September -. From Asuncion. Typewritten. Living in house there. Paraguay stamps.

October 13.

18. 1960.

February 9. Heading for Peru with Daddy for conference there. February 13.

April 13. Still in Asuncion.

May 11. From Uruguay. Traveling with a dog and a monkey.

1961.

March 11. From Kingman, Arizona.

April 10. En route to Rome; lay-over in Copenhagen. Encloses menu from Restaurant "7 Nationer." Danish Stamps.

April 14? From Albuquerque, New Mexico. Envelope printed address Avienda Estrellita, N.E. Albuquerque.

September 8. TWX from Jamaica, N.Y. Departing for Rome by air.

October 2. From APO 254, New York.

October 2. Letter #2.

1962.

August 10. Typewritten from Ankara, Turkey. Including all subsequent letters.

September 7.

October 12.

October 20. Typewritten (1); longhand (1).

October 27.

November 6. Discusses difficulty with her portrait painting.

December 17. Christmas card. [See also Folder 18, infra.]

19. 1963.

March 14. From Ankara. May not make visit to U.S. for another year.

April 8. Typewritten.

April 20. Getting ready for a show; has over 20 paintings.

May 3. Typewritten. Home leave in September [but see letter March 14]. Encloses black and white snapshot of herself and Ambassador's

wife at Charity Bazaar previous Fall.

May 22. [Still from Ankara.]

June 3. Her "dear friend, the painter Millie Lachman," leaving for two years in Paris. Painted portrait of her 14 year-old daughter.

June 26.

June 29.

July 30.

August 8.

August 9. Typewritten. A penetrating analysis of the relationship between mother and daughter, written in anticipation of home-leave.

August 23.

September 4. Leaving on September 18 via Washington, D.C.

September 17. Calendar with flight plans.

December 14.

1964.

January 10.

February 5. Typewritten. Refers to "you and Joe."

February 17.

March 4. Encloses photos (4) of Kukla Bay, a two months-old, "boy

poodle."

Inscription on back of each photo; one shows Robert M. with dog.

September 12.

October 23. On the Mediterranean.

December 18. Typewritten. Encloses -

Christmas Card [see also Folder 18, supra].

Reader's Digest article,

Hope for Brain - Injured Children. By Albert Q. Maisel.5 pp.

December 28. Typewritten. Planning retirement and return to U.S.

December 29. Typewritten.

1965.

January 9. Typewritten. Arriving at Albuquerque at February 4. Must return to Ankara by February 23.

January 11. Typewritten.

20. Holiday Cards.

This Folder contains Christmas, Valentine, Easter and Birthday cards from the Parsons, the Macks, and the Reeds, and friends of Christopher to Christopher, and Valentines from Christopher [by Sara Mack] to his mother [JHR]. 1955-1965.

B. Parties and Medical Bills.

- **21.** Party Invitation.
- **22.** Medical Matters.

[Christopher died in his early teen years.]

SECTION IV

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

A. Mary W. Reed Letters.

Mary W. Reed is Allen Reed's mother. All letters in this Part A are written by Mary to Allen Reed and his wife JHR or one of them unless otherwise indicated. They will be treated the same way that the letters of Sara Parsons Mack to her daughter, JHR are treated in Section III, Part A.

* * *

Box 30

1. 1950.

June 12. From Madison, Wisconsin [as are all others unless otherwise indicated].

June 22.

July 4. Planning to visit Taos on August 5....

July 14. with more people than originally expected.

July 29.

August 25. Had a great visit. [Not much warmth.]

September 5. Teaching Tim [?] house chores.

September 18. Picture card depicting a "mid-west church."

September 28. Homespun talk.

October 30.

November 18.

December 14.

1951.

January 22.

October 22.

November 19. Typewritten.

December 3. Discusses deer hunting; over 400,000 [sic] hunters.

December 7. Homespun talk.

1953.

February 25. First mention of Christopher [born January]. More small talk. No particular excitement over her grandson.

September 2. Give Christopher a hug.

December 8. Scribbles on envelope [by Christopher?].

2. 1954.

October 27. Envelope has printed address on sticker: Mrs. Mary W. Reed, Bethesda, Maryland.

November 24. Asks what to get Chris for Christmas.

December 30. Christmas talk; mention of Chris.

No expressed awareness of his condition.

1955.

January 6. To Allen alone. Noting she hasn't heard from him for a year. No mention of Chris' condition. Notes that JHR is overloaded. What kind of job has he now. Enclosed photo of the five children of Frank and Georgia S-. Inscription with names on reverse side.

July 11. To JHR only. Discloses knowledge that Chris is brain-damaged; knows of several similar cases! Suggests a doctor. Thinks "of little Chris all the time. Wishes -". Then turns to her petunias and phlox.

August 3.

August 17. "*** your letter is past due."
Had word from Joan "via Sara [Mack]."

September 2. On Stationery of U.S. Senate Press Gallery. Sara says she's enjoying portrait painting.

September 28.

October 14. On note paper bearing etching of U.S. Capitol. From Washington, D.C.

November 30.

1958.

April 14. From Washington, D.C. Encloses newspaper article [unident.] dealing with sight problems of children.

1959.

April 21. From Washington, D.C.

1960.

March 3[2?]. Gossip over friends.

April 6.

May 4.

July 12. Listened to Democratic Convention. Her choice is Stevenson.

October 16.

1962-1963.

Cards and letters (5).

Undated.

Letter from young Allen W. Reed ["Bud"] to "Mamie" [Mary W. Reed], thanking her for Xmas presents.

Recipe on back for Orange Sauce Fruit Cake.

B. Holiday Cards to Joan Reed and Allen Reed.

The popularity of Joan Higgins Reed and her husband, Allan Reed [often spelled Alan in error] is reflected in cards and letters they received throughout the years at Christmas, on Valentine's Day, and on the other holiday occasions. These are assembled in the Folders of this Section separately as to year. Where kept, envelopes are included to aid in establishing dates. Also assembled are miscellaneous cards that carry no dates. Some cards are specially noted.

- **3.** Cards received during 1950.
- **4.** Cards and letters received during 1951. Among them are:
 - (a) The Fallbook family year-end greetings takes the form of a 2-page typewritten letter tracing their lives during the year, with pictures of their three children
 - (b) The Binder family card includes a black and white family snapshot.
 - (c) The Hardin family's greetings were in 2-page handwritten letter tracing their lives during the year.
- **5-7.** Cards and letters received during 1952.

Several of the cards express congratulations upon the birth of their child [Christopher]; several of them wish them well in their new home.

- **8.** Cards and letters received during 1953, 1954, and 1955.
- **9.** Cards and letters received during 1957.
- **10.** Cards and letters received during 1958.
 - (a) Betty Pryor sent greetings on the letterhead of the Press Gallery at the U.S. House of Representatives.
 - (b) The Sadlers sent a letter reviewing the family's experiences during the year.

Box 31

- **11.** Cards received during 1959.
 - (a) The Webers enclosed three color pictures without identifications.
- **12.** Cards received during 1962 and 1964.
 - (a) The Sadlers sent Christmas greetings in the form of another letter tracing the family's experiences in 1962. Included was a black and white snapshot of the family.
 - (b) The Christmas card from the Macks enclosed two color photos of their children
- **13.** Undated cards and letters.
 - (a) A card with a woodcut picture, from Helen Blumenschein with a warm note.
 - (b) A letter (2 pp.) at Christmas, reviewing family events of the Hinchliffs.
- **14.** Cards and letters from Mary Reed to her daughter-in-law, JHR, and to her grandson, Christopher.
- **15.** Weddings, births, Valentines.
- **16.** Christmas card address book. JHR.

SECTION V

BLUE LAKE LAND CONTROVERSY

Development of Taos Plans.

Several attempts were made by the Government during the period 1943-1960 to appropriate land of Pueblo Tribes in the Taos area for public uses. One of the first efforts, made in 1943, was reflected in a Bill, H.R.323, presented to Congress by Rep. Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico on January 6th to authorize the exploration of proposed dam sites on Indian lands in New Mexico. Joan Higgins Reed played a prominent pro-Indian role.

Box 32 *

1. Article. *Threat to New Mexico Pueblos*, by Marina Dasburg.

Printed two-page leaflet, c.1943.

A diatribe against the Anderson Bill.

Evidently the measure was never adopted. Interest in the same area resurfaced in 1959 when a proposed "eastern by-pass of Taos" was planned, namely, a road that would pass through Taos over tribal lands. A committee was formed to oppose it: The Citizens Group for Western-By- Pass. JHR was an active member and one of the officials of the governing group.

2. H.R. 1960, 86th Congress, 1st Session. January 9,1959.

The Bill was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. It was designed to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System, viz. a system composed of federally owned or controlled areas in the U.S. and its territories and possessions.

- 3. House Bill No. 109, Twenty-Fourth Legislature of New Mexico. 1959.

 Actually called House Judiciary Committee Substitute for H.B. 109, designed to create a State Planning Office and outlining its powers and responsibilities.
- 4. House Bill No. 191, same Session. 1959.

Designed to develop "recreational and economic potentialities of Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel and Taos Counties" and other areas of Northern New Mexico through the administration of the New Mexico Park Commission.

5. House Bill No. 355, same Session. 1959.

Called Municipal and Regional Planning Act, Creating Planning Commission, powers and responsibilities.

6. Stenographer's Notebook. Not identified. <u>c</u>.1959.

Longhand statement of facts underlying Taos by-pass controversy.

- 7-23-59: Letter. Clinton B. Anderson [Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.U.S. Congress] to Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Moore.

 Advising that, in response to their telegram on the subject, the Bureau of Public Roads had stated it would make a new proposal "satisfactory to majority of the citizens of Taos."
- **8.** 7-30-59: Letter. John L. Simpson, Oklahoma, to Chamber of Commerce, Taos. Expressing negative view on a proposed "highway going through [Taos]."
- 9. Financial Report. The Citizens Group for Western By-Pass. August 9, 1959.

 JHR was a member.
- 10. 9-15-59: Letter. Taos County Chamber of Commerce <u>to</u> members.

 Soliciting new members to New Mexico Highway 64 Association organized to endorse a transcontinental highway by extending Highway 64 west from Taos through Ojo Caliente on to Farmingdale.
- Petition to Secretary of Agriculture. Draft: source not identified. c.1959. Draft form. Rider replaces lead paragraph.

 Seeking, by petition of non-Indians of Taos County on behalf of Taos Pueblo, Indians title to 50,000 acres in Blue Lake area.
- 12. 11-21-59: Letter. Taos Pueblo Council to JHR.

 Expressing appreciation for opposition to "Eastern By-Pass."

 1 member: John A. Lujan.
- 13. [By the end of 1960, new plans emerged for a by-pass road in the vicinity of Blue Lake, which led the Pueblos to seek preemptive rights to the waters of Blue Lake.]

* * *

New Mexico Highway 64 Association. Resolution. November 19, 1960.

At annual meeting, Resolution adopted supporting "Southern" routing of highway from Farmington to Taos, and instructing its officers to inform New Mexico Highway Commission to that effect.

- 14. 11-29-60: Letter. Franke & Cornell, City Planners, to JHR. Planning a meeting with the mayor, City Council, and Planning Commission.
- **15.** Form letter [draft]. Writer not known [JHR?], to "Dear Friend"; n.d. 9 pgs., longhand. Reviewing pros and cons of by-pass.

16. Newspaper article. *The Taos News*, October 19, 1961 (photostat 2). Headline: "*Indians Tell Their Side of Blue Lake Land Controversy*."

Story written by Taos Pueblo Council submitted [ghosted ?] by Oliver La Farge, President of Association of Indian Affairs, Inc. Petitioning for land grant. Sponsors include Mabel Dodge Lujan and JHR. Map of area. Seeking preemptive rights in Blue Lake area.

- 17. 1-8-62: Letter. Eleamor Roosevelt to Mrs. [Charles] Brooks. Photostat. Returning petition. [11, supra], signed.
- 18. 1-12-62: Letter. Saturday Review [Chas. Ciardi, Poetry Editor] to Mrs Charles D. Brooks.

 Returning petition [supra], signed.
- 19. 1-24-62: Letter. Walter to Mary -. Enclosing signed petition.
- **20.** 1-30-62: Letter. Oliver La Farge [AAIA, Inc.] to Geronimo Trujillo [Governor, Taos Pueblo]. Undersigned copy.

Disclosing "mix-up" over how Pueblo should get title to Blue Lake land.

- 21. 2-2-62: Letter. Oliver La Farge [AAIA, Inc.] to Charles Brooks, Taos. Signed copy.

 Same subject; also refers to "furious" opposition, which he discounts.
- 22. 2-2-62: Letter. Kit [Ted] Egri to Elizabeth Ingrahan.
 Enclosing petition seeking to get back "sacred Blue Lake wilderness" from Forest Service's "invasion" of it.
- 23. 2-19-62: Letter. East Tennessee State College [Research Council] to Mary Brooks, Taos. Enclosing petition and seeking more forms.
- **24.** 2-22-62: Letter. Charles D. Brooks to East Tennessee State College [Joe Jennings, Ch. Research Council]. Copy.

Congratulations on efforts advanced re the petition, and disclosing that petitioners include Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Henry Wallace, etc.

- **25.** 2-23-62: Letter. Mary to Sue . On letterhead of Lombardy Hotel, New York City, NY. Discussing petitions.
- **26.** 3-3-62: Letter. Ann N. Marshall to Gentlemen. Discussing petitions.

27. 3-19-62: Letter. Charles D. Brooks [Acequia Madre del Prado] to Senator Clinton F. Anderson.

Critizing anti-Indian articles in *Santa Fe New Mexican* and *Albuqerque Journal* re Blue Lake Controversy

28. 3-23-62: Letter. Clinton P. Anderson [U.S. Senate] to Charles D. Brooks.

Enclosing statement given to him last year by Forest Service.

Attached: Forest Service statement; n.d. Unsigned.

Sympathetic to Indian claim and resolution of issue.

- **29.** 4-21-62: Letter. Charles D. Brooks to Senator Clinton P. Anderson. Responsive to previous letter.
- 30. Minutes. [Taos Council?] September etc. 1959. Rough notes, longhand. In clipboard. Dealing with Blue Lake land issues.

Attachments:

Suggested Constitution and By-Laws for New Mexico Federation of Planning and Zoning Commissions. August 28, 1959.

Summary. Typewritten, 3 pgs., n.d. Writer not disclosed.

Relates attendance of Mayor Gilbert Rivera, Mrs Rivera, Molly Rivera (town clerk) on behalf of Taos Council at Governor's Conference on Urban Planning. JHR present. Meeting notes disclose formation of aforementioned Federation.

Program. Governor's Conference.

- **31.** Miscellaneous notes, longhand. By JHR and others.
- **32.** Newspaper clippings. 1960-1962.

Various papers from New York, Taos, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Dealing with dispute between Taos residents and Indian claim to 50,000 acres of Forest Service land. *The Taos News*, March 22, 1962 reports to "long-awaited CBS film on Taos Pueblo *** caused an uproar." *New York Times* editorial reprinted in *The New Mexican*, February 24,

1960, on Lands Wilderness Bill [Folder 2: see H.R. 1960, 86th Congress, 1st Session] which created National Wilderness Reservation System.

SECTION VI

SHELDON PARSONS' ART INVENTORIES & RELATED CORRESPONDENCE

Sheldon Parsons [SP], a noted member of the Santa Fe art colony of his time was JHR's grandfather through his daughter Sara, who in turn was VH's first wife and JHR's mother.

This material relates to Sheldon Parsons paintings.

* * *

1. 6-10-47: Tabulation by assigned numbers of SP paintings stored with Joseph Foster at Ranchos de Taos.

Also: Undated [1947] Statement of Sara Parsons Mack and Robert S. Mack stopping their heirs from claiming title to paintings in custody of Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Stone except for those paintings that the Stones state are the property of the Mack's.

Subscription: Calls attention to one Stone in Santa Fe who has records of some art held by him and other pieces held by "Rainbow Man," and still others that were sold.

Also: 2-15-48: Tabulation in longhand [by Macks?] of paintings by assigned numbers and titles which were held by the Blue Door [Art Gallery]. Some have prices.

- **2.** Related Correspondence.
 - 11-21-50: The Blue Door [Margaret and Manuel Berg, Scottsdale, Arizona] to JHR.

Discussing prospective purchaser of SP painting.

12-19-50: The Blue Door to JHR.

Mrs. Winne seeking to purchase an SP painting: *Adobe and Cottonwoods*.

2-7-51: Esther W. Winne to The Blue Door [Margaret Berg]. Dispute over price.

c.2-8-51: JHR to Margaret Berg [Blue Door].

Discussing Mrs. Winne transaction.

2-8-51: Margaret Berg to JHR.

Questioning whether correct painting is in transit to Mrs.

Winne.

2-26-51: Manuel Berg to JHR.

Enclosing net check for \$120. from sale to Mrs. Winne.

2-2-52: Henriette Harris, Antiques, Santa Fe, to JHR.

Receipt for four paintings on consignment, each at \$100.

c.6-1-59: Reynolds Gallery, Taos to JHR.

Consignment receipt for SP paintings (15), identified by

number, size, subject, sales price.

[Undated]: VH envelope.

Lists SP[?] paintings by number and size. Some numbers

correspond to Reynolds consignment receipt.